

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter comprising a plurality of channels, which method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) reducing the pressure in a pore structure of the channel walls relative to the surrounding atmospheric pressure,
 - (b) contacting a surface of the evacuated channel walls with a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or a precursor thereof, whereby the liquid permeates the evacuated channel walls, ~~and~~
 - (c) drying the filter containing the catalyst component or its precursor, and
 - (d) calcining the filter containing the catalyst component or its precursor.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the steps (b) and (c) of contacting the evacuated channel walls with a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or its precursor and drying the filter is~~ are repeated at least once prior to the calcining step (d).
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the pressure reduction in the pore structure of the channel walls is maintained during the liquid contacting step.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the liquid ~~containing the at least one catalyst component~~ contains the precursor and comprises an aqueous solution of at least one metal salt.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the liquid containing the at least one catalyst component comprises a slurry of at least one particulate metal oxide material in a carrier medium, ~~optionally water~~.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the D50 of the ~~or each~~ at least one particulate metal oxide material is in the range 1-20, μm .

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1, 2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the liquid containing the at least one catalyst component comprises a sol of at least one metal oxide material in a carrier medium, ~~optionally water~~.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the D50 of the sol particles is in the range 10-500 nm.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the loading of the at least one catalyst component in the catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter is from 20-120g/litre ~~(566-3398 g/ft³)~~.
11. - 14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the material from which the ceramic filter is made is selected from the group consisting of silicon, silicon carbide, aluminium nitride, silicon nitride, aluminium titanate, alumina, cordierite, mullite pollucite and a thermet such as Al₂O₃/Fe, Al₂O₃/Ni or B₄C/Fe.
16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the virgin filter material has a porosity of 40-60%.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(100)~~ for use in ~~the method according to any preceding claim~~ manufacturing a catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter, comprising means ~~(120)~~ for sealingly isolating a plurality of channels of ~~a the~~ ceramic wall-flow filter ~~(140)~~ from the surrounding atmosphere, means ~~(160, 200, 220)~~ for reducing the pressure in the isolated channels to below the surrounding atmospheric pressure thereby to establish a vacuum in the pore structure of the filter walls, at least one reservoir ~~(260)~~ for holding a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or a precursor thereof and means ~~(310, 300, 220)~~ for dosing the isolated and evacuated channels with a pre-determined quantity of the liquid.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 18, ~~comprising~~ wherein the means for sealingly isolating the plurality of channels comprises a pressurisable container ~~(120)~~ having a sealable closure ~~(130)~~ for receiving ~~a~~ the ceramic wall-flow filter ~~(140)~~.
20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18 ~~or 19, comprising~~ wherein the means ~~(160, 900, 220)~~ for maintaining the reduced pressure in the isolated channels to below the surrounding atmospheric pressure comprises means for maintaining the reduced pressure during dosing of the liquid.
21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18, ~~19 or 20 which~~ wherein the apparatus is at least semi-automated, ~~comprising means (220, 230) for controlling to~~ control both the means for reducing pressure in the isolated channels and the means for dosing the liquid.
22. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein the carrier medium comprises water.
23. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the carrier medium comprises water.